not limited to, magnetic and optical media (tapes, disks, etc.) as well as all varieties of electronic memory, both volatile and non-volatile.

The term "acquired data" or "recorded data" or "data" refers to said impressions of external events on a recording medium.

The term "interval of silence" refers to any time interval of sufficiently low content or change (as determined by an apparatus or algorithm) as to be considered empty of any material worthy of recording.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been described in detail, modifications and adaptations may be made thereto, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as delineated in the following claims:

I claim:

1-4. (canceled)

5. A process for event-activated recording, said process comprising the steps of:

   providing an acquisition buffer comprising at least one finite extent of a recording medium;

   providing a continuous acquisition means for recording events in said acquisition buffer;

   recording with said acquisition means in said acquisition buffer current events in place of earlier events, to insure that said acquisition buffer contains, at any given time, a record of the most recent events;

   providing triggering means to activate the preservation of all or part of said record of the most recent events recorded in said acquisition buffer, upon the detection of any of one or more predetermined events; and

   preserving any portion or portions of said record of events selected by said user, said preserving step comprising at least one of the following steps:

   reserving a portion of said record of events from being overwritten by other events; and

transferring said selected portions of the record of events to a predetermined permanent location.

6. The process of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

continuing to record, in the acquisition buffer or elsewhere, the triggering event and the events following the triggering event, and

copying to said predetermined location, concurrently with said continuous recording, all or part of the contents of the acquisition buffer existing at the time of said triggering event, thereby preserving a continuous record of events prior to, including, and following the triggering event.

7. The process of claim 6, further comprising the steps of recording events directly to said permanent location once said copying process has caught up with said continuous recording process.

8. A device for selectively recording events, said device comprising:

an acquisition buffer comprising at least one finite extent of a recording medium; a recorder in said acquisition buffer for recording current events in place of earlier events, to insure that said acquisition buffer contains, at any given time, a record of the most recent events;

a trigger for activating the preservation of all or part of said record of the most recent events recorded in said acquisition buffer, upon the detection of any of one or more predetermined events; and

preserving means to preserve any portion or portions of said record of events selected by said user, said preserving means includes:

reserving means for reserving a portion of said record of events from being overwritten by other events; and

transferring means for transferring said selected portions of the record of events to a predetermined location.

9. A process for selective recording of speech, said process comprising the steps of:

providing an acquisition buffer comprising at least one finite extent of a recording medium;

providing a continuous acquisition means for recording events in said acquisition buffer;

recording with said acquisition leans in said acquisition buffer current events in place of earlier events, to insure that said acquisition buffer contains, at any given time, a record of the most recent events;

transcribing to text all or part of any speech contained in said acquisition buffer; and

displaying all or part of said transcribed text.

10. The process of claim 9, further providing a display representing continuous blocks of events selected (and/or available for selection) for recall or preservation.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein said continuous blocks of events contain speech and are separated by intervals not containing speech.

12. The process of claim 11, further comprising the step of labeling said displayed blocks of speech with text labels.

13. The process of claim 12, wherein each said block of speech is transcribed to text from its beginning up to a predetermined length deemed suitable for said text label.

14. The process of claim 13, wherein each said block of speech is transcribed to text from its beginning up to a predetermined length deemed suitable for said text label.

15. The process of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

providing selection means enabling a user to select a portion or portions of said record of the most recent events recorded in said acquisition buffer, in order to determine which portion or portions, if any, of said record of events will be preserved; and

preserving any portion or portions of said record of events selected by said user, said preserving step comprising at least one of the following steps:

reserving a portion of said record of events from being overwritten by other events; and

transferring said selected portions of the record of events to a predetermined location.

16. A process for searching recorded speech, comprising the steps of::

accepting input of a spoken string, word or phrase to be searched for ("search string") in a longer extent or file of recorded speech ("speech file");

comparing of said search string with portions of said speech file to detect portions matching said search string; and

presenting to the user those portions of a speech file matched to said search string by said comparison means.

17. The process of claim 16, wherein a said matched portion of said speech file is presented in the context of a larger portion of said speech file in which said matched portion was found.

18. A broadcasting and fee collection method combining the steps of:

providing a computer program ("streaming software") that enables a user ("streamer") to transmit a stream of audio or video material ("content") that is provided to the streamer in encrypted form ("submission form"),

providing a computer program ("playback software") that allows a user ("listener") to play said stream of content, and further allows said listener to save a copy of a portion of said content ("download") upon payment, or arrangement for payment, of a fee ("download fee") therefor,

directing download fees to parties to whom said download fees are due,

providing a computer program ("submission software") that enables an owner ("originator") of content to encrypt said content into said submission form.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said streaming software transmits said stream of content in encrypted form ("streaming form"), which streaming form may be distinct from said submission form.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said playback software accumulates said stream of content transmitted by said streaming software in a buffer and enables said listener to save said download from said buffer.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said buffer accumulates said transmitted stream of content in streaming form and enables said listener to save said download in unencrypted form.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein said playback software is provided for download from a network to a plurality of potential listeners.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein said streaming software is provided for download from a network to a plurality of potential streamers.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein said submission software is provided for download from a network to a plurality of potential originators.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein said submission software enables a said originator to propose a proportion of download fees for said content to be paid to said originator, and said proposed proportion of download fees are directed to said originator.

26. The method of claim 18, further providing a computer program ("negotiation software") that enables a said originator and a said streamer to negotiate the portions of download fees respectively due said originator and said streamer.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said streaming software is disabled from transmitting said content to listeners without an enabling signal from said originator.

28. The method of claim 18, further providing a computer program ("multicasting software") that accumulates in a buffer the said stream of content transmitted by said streaming software, and further transmits said stream of content to a plurality of devices ("multicast receivers").

29. The method of claim 28, wherein a said multicast receiver comprises a device that executes said playback software, which playback software in turn plays said stream of content.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein a said multicast receiver comprises a device that executes said multicasting software, which multicasting software further transmits said stream of content to a further said multicast receiver.

31. A process for recording telephone conversation, said process comprising the steps of:

    providing an acquisition buffer comprising at least one finite extent of a recording medium;

    providing a continuous acquisition means for recording telephone conversation events in said acquisition buffer;

    recording with said acquisition means in said acquisition buffer current events in place of earlier events, to insure that said acquisition buffer contains, at any given time, a record of the most recent events;

    preserving any portion or portions of said record of events selected by a party to said conversation, said preserving step comprising at least one of the following steps:

    reserving a portion of said record of events from being overwritten by other events; and

    transferring said selected portions of the record of events to a predetermined permanent location.

32. The method of claim 31, further providing an indication audible to said party or parties when any said party moves to recall or preserve a portion of the conversation.

33. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of replaying audibly for a said party parties a portion of said conversation that a said party has selected for recall or preservation.

34. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of requiring the consent or a said party or parties to the recall or preservation of a portion of said conversation before effecting said recall or preservation.

35. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of authenticating the identity of a party.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein said authentication is effected by cryptographic means.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein said authentication is effected by biometric means.

38. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of clearing said acquisition buffer when any said party has left said conversation.

39. A portable device for selectively recording events, said device comprising:
an acquisition buffer comprising at least one finite extent of a recording medium;

    a microphone for acquiring input of speech or other sounds into said acquisition buffer;

    a fastener for attaching said device to a user's person or clothing;

    a recorder in said acquisition buffer for recording current events in place of earlier events, to insure that said acquisition buffer contains, at any given time, a record of the most recent events;

    a selector for enabling a user to select a portion or portions of said record of the most recent events recorded in said acquisition buffer to determine which portion or portions, if any, of said record of events will be preserved; and

    a preserver to preserve any portion or portions of said record of events selected by said user, said preserving means includes:

    a reserver to reserve a portion of said record of events from being overwritten by other events; and

    a transferor for transferring said selected portions of the record of events to a predetermined location.

40. The device of claim 39, wherein said fastener is a clip.

41. The device of claim 39, wherein said fastener is a wrist band or bracelet.

42. The device of claim 39, wherein said predetermined location comprises flash memory.

43. A portable device for selectively recalling events, said device comprising:

an acquisition buffer comprising at least one finite extent of a recording medium;

a microphone for acquiring input of speech or other sounds into said acquisition buffer,

a fastener for attaching said device to a user's person or clothing;

a recorder for recording current events in said acquisition buffer in place of earlier events, to insure that said acquisition buffer contains, at any given time, a record of the most recent events;

a selector for enabling a user to select a portion or portions of said record of the most recent events recorded in said acquisition buffer to determine which portion or portions, if any, of said record of events will be preserved; and

recall means for reproducing said record of events and any portion or portions of said record of events selected by said user using said selector.

44. The device of claim 43, wherein said fastener is a clip.

45. The device of claim 43, wherein said fastener is a wrist band or bracelet.